

313 the small industries of the remoter upland districts. It is particularly important in the wood and pulp and paper industries, and in the small textile and pottery works. Charcoal is still used for smelting.

377 ELECTRICITY is mainly generated thermally, in spite of the great potentialities of water-power provided by the rivers from the Carpathians, not to mention the Danube current. Lack of natural reservoirs in snow-field, glacier and lake means that exploitation of the hydro-electric resources would entail enormous capital expenditure in the construction of reservoirs. The sum total of direct water-power used must, however, be very great, for the number of water-wheels is legion.

● 317 SALT is another asset of real importance. Like the mineral oil, it is found in greatest abundance, and is most accessible, in the upper Tertiary deposits of the sub-Carpathians, in the region of greatest disturbance. Sometimes it is exposed in cliffs, sometimes it is covered with thin layers of loam. Salt mines are being worked at Slanic, at Targu-Ocna (Tergu Ocnei) in the Trotuş basin, and at Ocnele-Mare (Ocna) on the Olt. In 1932 the amount extracted was 288,000 metric tons, of which 240,500 tons were for home consumption, the rest being exported to the Balkan countries and to Russia. Salt mining and marketing are state monopolies.

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IN iron ore Roumania is not rich, the output being only about 90,000 tons per annum. The most important deposits lie in the mountains of the Banat and in the Poiana Ruscai (Ruszka) massif farther north, between the Mureş and the Bistra (Bisztra) tributary of the Timiş (Temes). The Reciţa (Reciţa Montana) district in the Banat mountains, opening towards Hungary, has foundries and steel works employing about 15,000 hands.

WITH the recent rise in the price of gold, the mining of that metal, which formerly was almost negligible, has become more active, and the output reached nearly 4,000 kgs. in 1933. The ore is mined in the Trachyte massif of the Bihor.

433 IN SPITE of considerable advantages in natural resources, and solicitous nursing on the part of the State, particularly in the Old Kingdom, industry in Roumania is still in its

A. THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

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Though the chemical industry of Rumania ranks lowest among the chief industries on the basis of production value, it is better and more comprehensively developed than in the other south-east European countries. Production is chiefly confined to heavy chemicals manufactured largely from indigenous raw materials. Most of the factories are situated in Valachia, Transylvania, and around Timișoara in the Banat.

I. Acids and Alkali

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Rumania produced annually 45,000 metric tons of sulphuric acid, which was sufficient to cover the pre-war requirements of the country, which were mostly for the refining of mineral oil. The manufacture was in the hands of some six firms, of which the chief producer was the Mărășești S.A.R., with plants at Mărășești, Valea Călugărească and Brașov. Three of the smaller plants producing sulphuric acid with a total annual capacity of 18,000 tons, representing 35 per cent. of the total, were acquired by Hungary. The necessary sulphur was obtained from Rumanian pyrites mines located at Baia Mare and Baia Sprie in N. Transylvania, acquired by Hungary in 1940. Since that date supplies have been derived from Fundul Moldovei, Zam, Sacaramb and Altan Tepe, though not in sufficient quantities to cover requirements. Shortage of sulphuric acid has been partly eased by imports from Italy.

The alkali production is normally sufficient to yield a surplus for export. Rock salt, of which there is an important domestic production, forms the basis of the alkali industry.

Salt Production

	metric tons
1939	374,000
1940	323,000
1941*	267,000

* Reduced 1941 production is due to loss of salt mines to Hungary at Ocna Șugatag, Ocna Dejului and elsewhere.

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Soda ash is made solely by the Solvay Company at Ocna-Mureșului, where the annual capacity of the plant is estimated at 50,000 metric tons. Caustic soda is made by the Solvay Company and by S. A. Nitrogen at Dicio Săn Martin. Production of alkali in 1939 and 1942 (estimated) was:—

	1939	1942
Soda ash	38,000	40,000
Caustic soda ..	11,800	15,000

Requirements of hydrochloric acid were about 3,000 to 3,500 metric tons a year, and were completely met by home production. Production of sodium sulphate, a by-product in the manufacture of hydrochloric acid, amounted to 2,650 metric tons in 1939.

The most important sulphate made in Rumania before the war was that of copper, production of which averaged 3,700 metric tons between 1933 and 1936, increasing to 12,400 tons in 1937. The chief producers were the Mărășești and the Phoenix chemical works (the latter in ceded territory).

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There is at present an acute shortage of copper sulphate, the loss of which as a fungicide is particularly felt. Germany is reported to have supplied small quantities in return for exports of copper scrap.

[34 b]